

Application No. 09/017,392
Amendment dated December 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 23, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

Substitute the attached drawings for those originally filed with the application.

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated November 23, 2005. For the reasons stated below, this Amendment should place the application in condition for allowance.

The Examiner objected to claim 8, but said the claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 8 depends from claim 5 which in turn depends from claim 1. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 5 and 8. Therefore, claim 1 as amended is allowable. Claims 5 and 8 have been cancelled.

Claims 6 and 7 depend from claim 1 and were rejected by the Examiner under Section 103. However, since claim 1 has been amended to place it in condition for allowance, claims 6 and 7 are now also allowable.

Claims 2, 3, 4, 9 and 10 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and had previously been withdrawn from consideration. However, since claim 1 has now been amended to place the claim in condition for allowance rejoinder and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested. See MPEP, Section 809.04.

Claims 11 through 24 have been cancelled.

At page 4 of the Office Action the Examiner stated that claims 25-33 and 44-80 are allowed. Within that group of claims, claims 31, 60, 63 through 72 had been withdrawn from consideration. Applicant understands the allowance of claims 25-33 and 44-80 to constitute rejoinder of these withdrawn claims and allowance of these claims.

Claims 34 through 43 and 81 have been cancelled. Cancellation of these claims, and all other cancelled claims, is made without prejudice to pursue such claims in another patent application.

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After the amendment and rejoinder of previously withdrawn claims 2-4, 9, 10, 31, 60 and 63 through 72 the following claims are pending 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 25-33 and 48-80. All of these claims have been allowed or are in condition for allowance.

Applicant has also amended the drawings to submit formal drawings for Figures 6 through 10. No changes have been made to any of the figures.

The Examiner has made a provisional non-statutory double patenting rejection to claims 1, 6, 7, 11, 12, 44-58 and 51-57. Submitted herewith is a terminal disclaimer which overcomes this provisional obvious-type double patenting rejection.

Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance.
Reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn J. Alstadt", is written over a horizontal line.

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